

**TOWN OF GRANBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

February 11, 2014

PRESENT: Michelle Niedermeyer, Kate Bogli, Pam Burek, John O'Brien, Erin Pirro (on speakerphone)

Guests: Allison Blair, Mary Ann Curling

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

ON A MOTION by Kate Bogli, seconded by Pam Burek, the minutes of the December meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Granby Sampler

Ms. Niedermeyer introduced Mary Ann Curling who has been organizing the Granby Sampler for 5 years now. Mary Ann gave a summary of the Granby Sampler activity. The 2014 Sampler has approximately \$2,500 in start-up funds. She is proposing to do 11 distributions this year, starting in June. Each Sampler will cost \$65 and generally includes meat, dairy, vegetable or fruit and a value added product. She has 6 confirmed subscribers for 2014 but would like to have 25 by the season start date. The Granby Sampler is a good way to introduce consumers to new products and to encourage residents to buy local. Mary Ann encouraged feedback and new ideas for products and local suppliers.

Open Farm Day

Pam Burek distributed hand-outs for planning Open Farm Day 2014. The commission reviewed the list of farms committed the event and will follow up with those who have not decided. Erin Pirro will update the Save the Date postcard. Pam will update the sponsor letter and send it out to last year's sponsors. New sponsors will be solicited from some of the other local businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

Resignation

Kate Bogli submitted her resignation from the Agricultural Commission.

Town Land Leases

The commission reviewed lease applications for town owned land. There are applications for 5 of the seven available parcels. All of the applicants have farmed these parcels in previous years.

The commission's consensus was that all applicants had followed the guidelines, the use of land was agreeable with good agricultural practice.

OTHER BUSINESS

Michelle Niedermeyer distributed "Planning for Agriculture, A Guide for Connecticut Municipalities" and suggested that commission members review it in terms of evaluating the community's support of agriculture. She also recommended that all commission members read the Planning & Zoning guidelines (available on the town's website.) If any suggestions for improvements come up, the commission can ask the Town Planner, Fran Armentano to come to a meeting and discuss proposals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Bogli suggested that the commission should consider recommending that the town adopt a "Right to Farm Ordinance". The State of CT has a "Right to Farm" Law which covers all municipalities, but the adoption of a local ordinance might affirm the Town's commitment to agriculture.

ON A MOTION by Pam Burek, seconded by John O'Brien, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Stuck
Recording Secretary